

***Loiseleuria procumbens*** (L.) Desv.  
alpine azalea  
Ericaceae (Heather Family)

**Status:** State Threatened  
**Rank:** G5S1

**General Description:** Adapted from Douglas et al. (1999): A diffusely branched, dwarf evergreen shrub that trails on the ground without rooting at the nodes and has stems that are 2 to 11¾ in. (5 to 30 cm) long, hairless or minutely hairy. The partially clasping leaves are opposite, leathery, lance-oblong to oblong, bright green, 1/8 to ¼ in. (3 to 8 mm) long, 1/32 to 1/8 in. (1 to 3 mm) wide, hairless above, short hairs below, and with margins rolled under. The flowers are light to deep pink and clustered in the axils of the upper stem leaves. The flower stalks are 1/32 to ¼ in. (1 to 10 mm) long and straight or curved. The corollas are pink, bell-shaped, 5-lobed, and 1/8 to ¼ in. (4 to 5 mm) long. The calyces are red, 1/16 to 1/8 in. (1½ to 2½ mm) long, hairless, and persistent. The fruits are borne in an ovoid capsule that is 1/8 to ¼ in. (3 to 5 mm) long and 1/16 to 1/8 in. (2 to 3 mm) wide.

**Identification Tips:** *Loiseleuria procumbens* is the only species in North America of the genus *Loiseleuria*. This genus is most closely related to the genus *Phyllodoce*. These two genera can be distinguished by their leaves, flowers, number of stamens, and anthers. The leaves of *Loiseleuria* are mostly opposite, narrowly elliptic, and 1/8 to ¼ in. (4 to 8 mm) long, its flowers are erect with short stalks, it has 5 stamens, and its anthers open lengthwise. The leaves of *Phyllodoce* are alternate, linear, ¼ to 2/3 in. (6 to 16 mm) long, its flowers are spreading or nodding on slender stalks, it usually has 10 stamens, and its anthers open by two terminal pores.

**Phenology:** Through out its range, this species is identifiable July through August. In Washington, it has been observed in August.

**Range:** This circumpolar species is found from Alaska west throughout much of Canada, including Yukon Territory, Northwest Territories, Nunavut, Quebec, British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and Newfoundland. In the United States *L. procumbens* has been seen in Washington, New York, New Hampshire, and Maine. It is also found in Eurasia. In Washington, *Loiseleuria procumbens* is found in Skagit County and has historically been found in Chelan County.

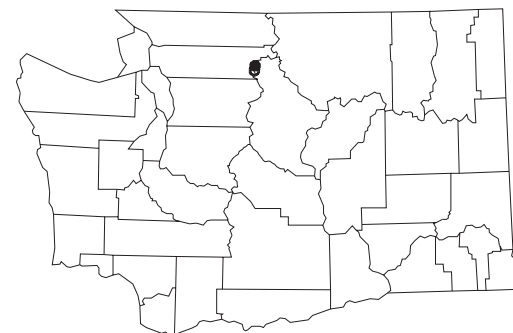
**Habitat:** *Loiseleuria procumbens* prefers alpine slopes. In Washington, it occurs at an elevation of 6100 to 6550 ft (1859 to 1996 m).

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Known distribution of  
*Loiseleuria procumbens*  
in Washington



● Current (1980+)  
○ Historic (older than 1980)

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Photo by Margaret Williams

Photo by Devin Malkin

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**Ecology:** This species grows in cold, dry areas at high elevations.

**State Status Comments:** Known from one recent occurrence within the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest in Skagit County and one historical occurrence within the Wenatchee National Forest in Chelan County. Very little is known about these populations.

**Inventory Needs:** Alpine slopes in Skagit and Chelan counties should be systematically surveyed for additional populations.

**Threats and Management Concerns:** No threats have been clearly identified for this species.

**References:**

Douglas, G.W., G.B. Straley, D. Meidinger, and J. Pojar. 1999. *Illustrated Flora of British Columbia* vol. 3: *Dicotyledons (Diapensiaceae Through Onagraceae)*. Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks, Victoria, British Columbia. 401 pp.

Hitchcock, C.L. and A. Cronquist. 1973. *Flora of the Pacific Northwest*. University of Washington Press, Seattle, WA. 730 pp.

Potash, L.L. 1991. *Sensitive Plants and Noxious Weeds of the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest*. USDA: Forest Service-Pacific Northwest Region. 116 pp.